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FEW THINGS  
O F  
Great Weight,  
OFFERED

To the Consideration of all Sober  
People, and to Friends of Truth more  
Particularly: With Relation to their  
Early Care and Christian Endeavour to  
Season the Minds of their Children  
whilst they are Young, with the Sense  
and Savour of the Spirit of Truth.

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*O Lord, I know that the Way of Man is not in  
himself, it is not in Man that walketh to direct  
his Steps, Jer. 10. 23.*

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By Richard Vickris.

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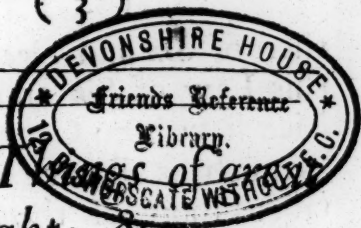
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*A few Things of great  
Weight, &c.*

**T**His Way of Man is the  
Way that God hath  
appointed him to Walk  
in, and it is a High Way of  
Holiness and Happiness in God,  
that is, in his Divine Nature,  
VVill and Spirit, and is Oppo-  
sed to the Low VVay of Sin  
and Imperfection that is in  
Man's self, Respecting his Cor-  
rupt Fleshly VVill, Mind and  
Spirit : In each of these VVays  
there is a Law or Power, the  
one of *Spirit* and *Life*, the o-

thier of *Sin* and *Death* ; under  
 this Law of *Sin* and *Death* all  
 Men have been Concluded, for  
 as much as all have Sinned and  
 fallen short of the Glory of  
 God ; that is, they have chosen  
 their own VVay, and followed  
 the Thoughts and Devices of  
 their own Hearts, which hath  
 proved to be a VVay of Folly  
 and Misery, and still continues  
 so to be, whatever otherwise  
 Man may think in his Earthly  
 Sensual VVisdom, being in  
 Captivity under the Law and  
 Power of *Sin* and *Death* that  
 Rules in him ; in this State  
 many are whole and at ease in  
 a Self-security, having given  
 up themselves to be Subjects to  
 that Kingdom, seeks not, nor  
 desires



desires any other. But there are others, who, having heard the Call of God, are awakened to a sight and sense of their Condition, and oftentimes Laments themselves, and crys and seeks for a Deliverer; and of these there is some hopes, because a Deliverer is come out of *Zion* to turn away Ungodliness from *Jacob*; that is, from him that wrestleth for a Blessing: This Deliverer is Christ the Lord, of whose coming all the Holy *Patriarchs, Prophets and Apostles* bore witness, who said, *The whole needs no Physician, but those that are Sick; I am not come to Call the Righteous, but Sinners to Repentance.*

Now this Deliverer (to wit) Christ, is that Way of Man spoken of by the Prophet *Jeremiah* ( viz. ) *That* Isa. 35. 8. *High Way of Holiness and Happiness in God*, which leads from the Earthly to the Heavenly, from the Kingdom of Satan to his own Blessed Kingdom with his Father; and this Way is his Divine Nature Manifested as a Law and Power of Spirit and Life in us.

Now though we are awakened to a sense of our Condition, and groans and longs for Deliverance, we cannot obtain it in our own Way and Will, for the VWay of Man is not in himself, it is not in Man that walketh to direct his Steps, we must

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must wait to feel our Deliverer to work in us, and for us, of his own good VVill and Pleasure, Directing us by his Law, and Inabling us by the Power of his Spirit, to work out our Salvation with Fear and Trembling; so that it is not of him that wills, nor of him that runs, but of God that sheweth Mercy; we are Exhorted so to run, that we may obtain according to the Apostles saying, *Though all run, but one Receiveth the Price,* 1 Cor. 9.24. This one is the True Believer (Personated in one, viz. Christ his Head) whose Hope, Trust and Confidence is in his Helper and Deliverer; it is written in *Isaiab 28. 16. Thus saith the*

*Lord, Behold I lay in Zion for a Foundation, a Stone, a Tried Stone, a Precious Corner Stone, a sure Foundation; he that Believeth shall not make haste.* This sure Foundation, precious Corner Stone, is our Blessed Lord Christ; happy are all they that come to him, build upon him, and abide with him that never fails.

Thus we may observe two ways known by their differing Powers and Natures, the One Christ, the Kingdom of God in our Minds; the other, Satan in our Fleshly VVills or Members; the one Light, the other Darknes, the one High and Holy, the other Low and Sensual.

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Now all that have heard the Call of God, and have believed therein, and are awakened unto Righteousness, that is, have a Spiritual Sense and Feeling of God, must come out of this low sensual VVay of Self and Self-working; and instead of being led and acted by their own Natural Powers of Fleshly VVill and VVisdome in which Satan Builds, they must come down to this sure Foundation, *viz. Christ in them, and feel the Power of his Life to Lead and Act them*; that is, they must incline their Minds Inwardly unto his Divine Word of Faith and Law of Spirit and Life in them, which is Quick and Powerful, &c. and is a Discerner of  
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*the Thoughts and Intents of the Heart*, whereby their Souls were first quickened and made alive, and Faith wrought in them, by which Faith the Spiritual Senses of the Soul are Exercised towards God, whereby they see him that is Invisible, by which the Holy Ancients endured, and did all those mighty things made Mention of in the Author to the *Hebrews*, *Having an Eye to the Recompence of Reward*; and this Faith being thus wrought in them, by the Operation of God, must be daily kept to, and in, that they may know and witness a dividing betwixt Soul and Spirit, betwixt the Soul and its old Natural

tural and Sensual Power of working in its Fleshly VVill and Wisdom in which the Devil Rules; and its New and Heavenly Power; which it receives by Faith through the Impression of the Divine Nature of Christ therein ; which as the Soul comes to behold, it will be Affected with its Beauty ; and keeping in the Love thereof, will witness a being changed into its likeness from one Degree of Glory to another ; and so the old comes to be put off, and the new Man put on, which is Created after the Image of God in Righteousness and true Holiness ; these things are of great VVeight and Concern to all that are true Travellers

vellers towards God's Heavenly Kingdom of Rest and Peace, to Experience in themselves; for want whereof many have been held in sore *Bondage* and *Captivity*, under hard Labour and Servitude many Years, and have not been able to attain to what their Souls have long Desired and Travelled for (*viz.*) Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance from *Sin* and *Death*, because they have not been Rightly Exercised in striving, whilst out of the Faith, which alone can give the Victory, *and without which 'tis impossible to please God*; such instead of attaining to the divine Knowledge of the Truth, have attained only to a Notion and Comprehension thereof in their



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their Earthly Minds, who have  
 not waited to Receive it by  
 Faith into a Spiritual renewed  
 Mind and Heart; which Faith  
 is the Gift of God, and is  
 wrought by him through the  
 Quickening of the Soul to an  
 Exercise of Spiritual Sense and  
 Feeling of the Power and Vir-  
 tue of his Truth, by which  
 alone the Soul is made Capa-  
 ble of receiving the true Know-  
 ledge thereof, and a fit Vessel  
 to retain it. So here is a dif-  
 ference between a Living and  
 Spiritual Knowledge, and a  
 Dead, Natural, Fleshly Know-  
 ledge: The one gives Victory,  
 the other leads into, and leaves  
 in *Bondage*; the one is attained  
 by Faith into a New and Spi-  
 ritual

ritual Life, the other is gathered by a Fleshly Sense and Comprehension into the old corrupt Nature, which is not the proper Organ of Reception of the True and Saving Knowledge of God, and the things that appertain to his Heavenly Kingdom, *It's the old Bottle that is not fit for the New Wine of the Kingdom; Make the Tree Good, said Christ, and his Fruit Good; or else make the Tree Corrupt, and its Fruits Corrupt.* Of one of these all are, and accordingly must be Denominated, and the Tree is known by its Fruits; we were all by Nature of the Corrupt Tree, or Wild Olive, and cannot be made good, but by being cut  
off

off and Grafted anew, contrary to Nature, into the good Olive Tree, which is Christ Jesus, the Root and Off-spring of *David*, the Bright and Morning Star, the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the Foundation of the Prophets and Apostles: Who, being thus inwardly Experienced and Acknowledged to be laid by God in *Zion*, a Sure, Elect and Precious Corner Stone, the Way, the Truth and Life, according to his own Blessed Testimony of himself in *John* 14. 6. *and that no Man cometh to the Father but by him*: The Compleating of all our Happiness consists in coming unto him, abiding with him, or building upon him; for as  
Christ

Christ said, *Without me ye can do nothing*, John 15. 5. *It is not in Man that Walketh to direct his Steps*, Jer. 10. 23. And if a Man cannot direct his own Steps aright, how shall he direct the Steps of others, which leads me to Express something that Lives and Rests upon my Spirit to Friends of Truth, Concerning the Discharge of our Christian Care and Duty towards others, more particularly our Tender Off-spring, from a true Sense of the strict Relation that Exercise necessarily hath to a Spiritual Ability from God, to a right Performance thereof.

And therefore, Friends, more particularly you who are Parents

rents of Children, a few things hath opened in my Mind, to Recommend to your Consideration, touching this great Duty of Educating our Children in the Love and Fear of God, by the Power and Influence of his Blessed Truth : VVe know God hath so Manifested his Light and Truth in us, that the Devil hath not been able to Extinguish it, or Obliterate the Certain Sense and Experimental Knowledge of its Testimony in our selves : And therefore he hath, and doth use his utmost Endeavour to do it in our Off-spring, and deprive them of the Benefit of our Faith, by lessening our Zeal for the Truth ; and thereby

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our Spiritual Love and Care for them, and by this means he hopes to obtain his end in the succeeding Generations, *viz.* to lay waste the Blessed Testimony thereof in the Earth; but our God beholds his secret VVorkings, and doth, and will open the Eyes of his Children and People, to see and escape his Snares, and enable them to Resist and Disappoint all his VVicked Purposes against his Flock and Heritage, who hath all Power and Sufficiency to do whatsoever pleaseth him, and will Accomplish his VVill in all those that Love and Fear him, now henceforth and for ever. Such is the Power and Prevalency of the Truth, that  
as

as in the Days of Christ's Appearance in the Flesh, the Devils were subject, and made to confess to him ; so hath it been in our Day : But the Righteous then were Exhorted, not to Rejoyce therein, but rather that their Names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life ; and so it is now : And this is *the Souls only Happiness, Fortress, and Security from Danger for ever.*

Now hereinto we must all come and abide for our selves, and hereby (as we ought) we shall be enabled to be helpful to others, especially our tender Offspring that God hath Blessed us with, whom he Loves and Delights to do good unto ;

and for that end hath bestowed them upon us, and given us the Knowledge of his Truth, that we may Minister it to them, and present them to God thereby; that is, by the Power and Virtue of his Truth, to season their Hearts and Minds with the Love and Fear of God, as is said before, in their tender Years, that as they grow up they may be fitted and prepared to meet the Lord, and to know him in themselves, by the sweet Influences of him through us their dear Parents, and so shall we be Instrumental to bring them unto Christ, who said, *Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven*, Mar. 10. 14. Now

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Now this is a Spiritual Work, and therefore requires a Spiritual Capacity and Ability, Rightly to perform it, and this Capacity is not of Man, nor in the Will and Time of Man, but of God; and therefore to be sought for, and waited for from him, from whom every Good and Perfect Gift cometh, and in whose Hand are the Times and Seasons: And unless we are thus Exercised and Qualified, whatever other Abilities of VVisdom and Knowledge we have attained to, and are exercised in, we shall fall short of a right Performance of this great Duty towards our Children, of begetting them to God; it was

a right Conclusion in Solomon,  
 Expressed in his Prayer to God  
 for Wisdom ; viz. *Tho' a Man  
 be never so Perfect amongst the  
 Children of Men, yet if thy Wisdom  
 be not with him, he shall be nothing  
 Regarded,* Book of *Wis.* 9. 6. All  
 our Power and Sufficiency to  
 act and do for God, is of him,  
 and from him, how then can we  
 do the Work of the Spirit with-  
 out the Spirit of God ? It is the  
 Spirit of God that begets to  
 him, and if we are not begot-  
 ten thereby, or do not continue  
 therein, how can we perform  
 the Works thereof which are  
 Spiritual, surely none can ?  
 Flesh and Spirit are contrary  
 each to other, and have differ-  
 ing Powers as well as Fruits  
 and

and Effects; and the Tree is known by its Fruits, if the Tree be Corrupt, the Fruits will be Evil; and though the Cry should be *Lord, Lord*, it will not give an entrance into Christ's Kingdom, if the Will of his Father be not done, which is in Heaven, no more will the Doctrine of Truth, Truth beget to God, unless it spring from the Life and Power of Truth in our selves; that is, unless we so Live as to obtain entrance into God's Kingdom for our selves; how shall we help to bring our Children thereinto: No, on the contrary, if our Fruits be Evil, our Tree is Corrupt and hinders them, *For he that is not of me,*  
said

said Christ, *is against me, and he  
 that gathereth not with me, scat-  
 tereth abroad*: And of such it may  
 be truly said, they suffer not their  
 Children to come unto Christ  
 that he might Bless them, and  
 tho' not in Words, yet by their  
 Deeds they forbid them; and so  
 are unlike the Blessed Example  
 of *Abraham*, the Father of the  
 Faithful, of whom it was  
 said, *Gen. 18. 19. I know him  
 that he will Command his Chil-  
 dren and his Household after him,  
 and they shall keep the Way of the  
 Lord, &c.* Whereby we may  
 observe, that *Abraham's* Care,  
 in this Respect, was attended  
 with the Word of Faith, which  
 was a Word of Power and  
 Command, which had a Blessed  
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Effect, and was the Reward of his Faithfulness to God; and if we be like-minded, and follow his Example, the Lord will be with us to Abilitate and Furnish us for the Effecting the same good Work by us, which Spiritual Ability from God, is my Earnest Desire we may all wait upon him for, who hath Promised to give his good Spirit to them that ask him.

And now as to the State of little Children, it may be the Opinion of some, that they are not Capable of receiving the Help and Benefit of their Parents Faith, by Reason of their Infancy, or small Age and Time; and hence may be the more Indifferent, as to an Early

Care for their coming to Christ, not considering them as fit Members of his Kingdom: But seeing our Lord Christ, in the Days of his **Flesh**, hath taught us otherwise by his own Blessed Example, in the Case of the little Children; which according to *Luke 18.* were Infants that was brought unto him, when he came into the Coasts of *Judea* beyond *Jordan*, *Mat. 19.13.* and *Mat. 10.13.* *That he might lay his Hands upon them, or touch them*; we Read not that it was for any outward Infirmary they had; wherefore Christ's Disciples (not seeing into the Mystery of the Lord's Ways and Doings) Rebuked them that brought them; which,

which, had they been Diseased, we may suppose they would not have done, because we find not that they did it in such Cases to those of Riper Years. *But when Jesus saw it, it is said in Mark 10. he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven: Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of Heaven as a little Child, he shall not enter therein:* Which Saying of Christ is of great Weight, and carries deep Instruction to us, if duly Considered. It plainly Teaches, not only that Children are Capable of Receiving the Kingdom, and that their Way of

Receiving is Right; but that there may be a wrong Way of Receiving of it by those of Riper Years, which shuts out of the Kingdom. It therefore greatly Concerns us all, Rightly to Consider how little Children Receives the Kingdom, that we may prove and try our selves thereby: We all know that little Children are not very Capable of Exercising the Rational Faculty of their Souls; consequently are not so Capable, after that manner, to receive the Kingdom, whence we may infer, they had another, better, and more excellent Way of Receiving it, seeing their Way is Commended to us for an Example; for though it be granted, that the

Know-



Knowledge we attained to, by the right Exercise of our Senses and Reason, as we grow in Years, is as a *School-Master* to bring us unto Christ; yet the Right Receiving of him, is by, and into a New and Spiritual Life, that is begotten and quickened in the Soul by him.

Now as the Souls of Men and Women are Capable of this New Life, so are the Souls even of little Children, being of the same Excellent Frame, according to Measure, and are endured with a more Divine Capacity of Knowledge, than what is, or may be attained to, by the Rational Faculties only, and that is the Capacity of its New Life it Receives from

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Christ,

Christ, as in a Seed which gives us Spiritual Sensation of the Visits and Touches of the Spirit, which Influences and Opens the Spiritual Eye and Ear, to See and Hear a Beauty and Harmony in the Divine Nature, and Original Good, which is God ; whereto they, *viz.* Little Children, may be Excited by the Communication of Spirit, in the Reaches forth of the Love and Life of Truth Ministerially and Instrumentally to them, before they are either Capable of receiving Instruction by Word or Doctrine, or giving an Account of that Beautiful Image of Light, and Life, and Truth, they see and feel in their Minds ; and this is in

a good Measure to be seen and observed in some very little Children, and is the Work of God upon them, and the Way they Receive his Heavenly Kingdom, by Participation of the Blessing of the Divine Nature and Spirit of Christ for it is said *Mark 10. 16. That Christ took the little Children up in his Arms, put his Hands upon them, and Blessed them.* Here it may be observed, that we Read not that Christ spoke any Words unto them; it is Probable they were not Capable of Receiving much Instruction that Way, and yet were Capable of Receiving the Blessing of his Spirit, and the Kingdom therein: And if this was, is, and

may be so with little Children, how much more Sensibly ought it to be Witnessed and Experienced by those of Riper Years. But if we who are attained to the fulness of Years, and extent of the Exercise of the Rational Powers and Faculties of our Souls, shall content our selves with what we can gather in, of the Convictions of Truth upon our Understandings, and not Receive the Kingdom thus as little Children, by the Visits and Touches of Jesus, which quickens our Souls to God, whereby we come to be Regenerated and Born again of his Spirit, and made Partakers of his Divine Nature, we can in no wise

wise enter into the Kingdom God ; and if we enter not the Kingdom our selves, how shall we be helpful to bring our Children thereinto? No, we cannot ; but, as I said before, are hinderers of them.

Great hath been, and is, the Disadvantage, that the Children of many Friends have and do ly under, for want of the Spiritual Help of their Parents Faith and Exercise therein towards God for them, especially for the first Times and Years of their Life, wherein they are Capable of Receiving early Impressions of Good ; and for want thereof, the Evil many times takes place, and fills their Minds, and Renders them more Unfit  
and

and Uncapable for a Right Receiving of the Kingdom of God; for as they grow in Years, they grow and increase in Natural Understanding, and Exercises of their Rational Powers and Faculties, and get into a Comprehension or Notion of the Truth, which if it be not accompanied with a Divine and Spiritual Sense and Feeling of the Love and Life of God in the Innermost part of the Soul, and a Real Conformity thereunto; though they may Receive the outward Knowledge of the Truth in the First Birth, and grow Rich and Wise in Profession, they do, and will fall short of entering into God's Kingdom: And this is the Case  
of

of too many of Friends Children Professing the Truth ; who, perhaps, make an outward Shew of Conformity thereto, but do not Receive it into the Right Ground, the Good and Honest Heart ; so bring not forth Fruit to God's Glory, by which alone the Entrance is obtained into the Kingdom.

Having Premised these things concerning Children, and the necessity of a Right and Spiritual Frame in their Parents, for their Profitable Education, I tenderly Recommend it to all Friends that have Families of Servants and Children, that they seek the Lord, and wait upon him for Wisdom and Spiritual Ability in themselves, that  
they

they may be enabled to reach to that Degree of Soul in their Servants and Children, wherein God is felt and witnessed to Appear and Work for their Redemption and Salvation; I have already shewed what that is, *viz.* The Souls New and Spiritual Life in God.

That which I have further to Communicate and Recommend, and hath been long upon my Mind, for a Remedy to help forward the Work of the Lord in the Souls of all both Parents and Children, hath a strict Relation to Practice, and that is,

For as much as our Children are Capable of being Members of Christ's Kingdom by coming unto him; let us use all  
our



our Endeavour to bring them to him, that he may lay his Holy Hand upon them, and Bless them, and that whilst they are little.

And for as much as the right doing of this Requires a Spiritual Frame, and Heavenly Capacity in us, who are Parents, as is before observed, and this cannot be otherwise attained, unless God give it: Let us set apart some time to wait upon him in our Families, and amongst our Children for this End, and the Lord will Bless our Endeavours, if we be true and sincere to him therein, and to Excite us the more to such Family-Meetings, Let us Consider who have great Families  
of

of Servants and small Children ( especially in the Country, where Publick Meetings of the Lord's People and Servants are frequently at great Distances ) that such small Children can rarely, if at any time, be present ; by which means the Opportunity and Benefit they should Reap by Meeting with their Dear Parents, in the Assemblies of God's People, is for the first Years of their Life lost, which, if duly Considered, is a great Disadvantage, with Respect to its Consequence, both to Parents and Children ; for as *Iron* sharpens *Iron*, so doth the Countenance of a Man his Friend ; and if this be true in the General, as is most certain

tain, Must not the Heavenly Desire and Influences of good Parents, in the Love of God, for and towards their tender Off-spring, at such Times and Seasons, be greatly Prevailing with him for a Blessing, and with them to a Sense and Love of Truth ( which Includes all that is Good ) in their tender Years, before the Impressions of Evil fill their Minds, as is before observed, seeing they are and must be allowed to be Capable very Early of Good, as well as of Evil Impressions? It is therefore tenderly Recommended, as a Supplement to the afore-mentioned Defect, that such Parents do set apart some time, as they shall see meet in  
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the Wisdom of God, to meet with their Children and Servants in their own Families, to wait upon him for the Blessing of his Sweet and Comfortable Presence, to be with, and amongst them, which will Enable them to give Instruction in Meekness and Wisdom, and Govern in Righteousness and Truth, to the Quickening and Nourishing the tender Seed of God in their Children, and Edification of all therein, to the Praise of his Name, that hath Called us; and to the Peace, Joy and Happiness of our Souls for ever.

And now, as to you little Children, the Off-spring of Believing Parents, who have but  
little

little Natural Knowledge, you are nevertheless Beloved of God, not only because he Made and Created you, but for the sake of his only Beloved Son Christ Jesus, whom he sent into the World to save and deliver you from Sin and Death, and thereby make you his Children; who also himself Loves you, in that he gave himself to Dye for you, that he might Redeem you to God, whereby you are beheld Innocent and Lovely in his sight, who delights to Bless you, and knows how to Communicate to you Spiritual Knowledge, and make you fit for his Kingdom, who said, *Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not,*

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for

*for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.* Thus whilst you are Innocent, you are Beloved of God and of Christ, and are also Beloved of his People, and are Accounted and Esteemed of them good little Friends, if you continue in your Innocency, and love God in your Minds, who have thus Manifested his Love to you, tho' you can Speak but little of him, you may have a Sense and Feeling of him by his Visits and Touches of you, by his Spirit, Life and Love in your Souls, and you may see and behold him in his Appearance in your Parents and others, whose Souls Loves God, and whose Minds are Inward and Spiritual to him, they will have a Sweet and

and Heavenly Influence upon you, to a Love of Spiritual-mindedness, Innocency, Meekness and Sobriety, with other Heavenly Virtues, whereby you may come to know God, by these Fruits of his Spirit, and Love him and his Appearance, and Manifestation of his Son *Christ Jesus* in you, in Holiness, Righteousness and Truth, to the Sanctifying your Hearts and Minds, that as you grow in Years, and increase in Natural Knowledge, you may grow and increase in Divine and Spiritual Knowledge, by being made Partakers of the Blessing of Christ that Quickens your Souls to God; so will your Parents take Delight in you, as they find you thus.

thus to Delight in God, which will Incline you to love all Opportunities to be with the Lord's People, to meet with them to wait upon him, for the Visits and Touches of his Spirit, that you may know Christ to come to you, and you to come to him, and to be taken up into his Arms, and Receive the Blessing from him, who will delight to fill your Souls with his Goodness, whereby your Love will be renewed to him, and you fitted for his Heavenly Kingdom, and enter thereinto; that this may be the Care and Portion of all God's People and Children; Is the Hearty Desire of your Friend that Loves you, and Wishes the Well-fare of all, both Parents and Children,

R. V.

# ERRATA

Page 9. Line 12. for *Spide*, read *Rules*.

# FINIS.



